The ASPCA® Has a Proud History of Protecting Our Nation’s Noble Equines
A NOTE FROM EDWIN SAYRES:

As we make our way into 2009, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude for your continued support and activism that made 2008 another remarkable year of progress for the ASPCA®. All that the ASPCA has been able to achieve is directly attributable to the generosity and compassion of friends like you.

This first issue of the new year focuses on horses, which is particularly appropriate since it was the sight of a fallen carthorse that inspired Henry Bergh to form the ASPCA almost 150 years ago, thus founding America’s first humane organization. While horses have played a major role in human history, these intelligent and sensitive animals have suffered untold abuse and neglect. The ASPCA is committed to promoting humane care and respect for horses, and will continue assisting numerous people and groups around the country with education and consulting on equine health, welfare, and abuse issues. I am proud to say that we are setting the standard for the animal welfare community in this country.

As always, I am ever grateful for your steadfast friendship and look forward to continuing our partnership that is creating a more humane and just world not just for horses, but for all of America’s animals.

Edwin Sayres
President & CEO

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Volume 5, Number 1
ASPCA Action is published four times a year by The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals 424 East 92nd Street New York, NY 10128-6804

Postmaster—Send address changes and undeliverable copies to: ASPCA Action Returns P.O. Box 97288 Washington, DC 20090-7288

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The ASPCA® Has Spent More Than 140 Years Protecting Our Nation’s Equines

On a balmy evening in April 1866, ASPCA® founder Henry Bergh strode across New York’s Fifth Avenue and intervened in a beating that a teamster was inflicting on his exhausted workhorse. The New York State Legislature had passed a bill earlier that day permitting punishment of anyone who unjustifiably caused pain to an animal. Bergh had a copy of the new law in his pocket, and he wasted no time enforcing it by confronting the angry teamster. It was a seminal moment in the then-emerging animal welfare movement, and Bergh’s brave deed was among the first of many in his decades-long pledge to defend those with no voice. It was also the opening salvo in the ASPCA’s 143-year battle for the humane treatment of horses.

Saving and Improving the Lives of Equines Across the Country
The ASPCA is dedicated to improving the lives of horses across the country, with a particular emphasis on urban carriage horses, mares and foals used in the production of Premarin®, wild horses, racehorses and horses bound for slaughter. It strives to protect these horses through a strategic combination of legislation, advocacy, education and targeted grants.

Whether at the city, state or federal level, the ASPCA works around the clock to support the introduction or strengthening of laws to protect equines, as evidenced in the organization’s efforts to ban the use of carriage horses in New York City. The ASPCA is not opposed to the use of horses in pulling carts and carriages for hire, provided all of the animals’ physiological and behavioral needs are met, housing and stable conditions are humane, and their working hours and conditions are carefully regulated. The ASPCA’s position is, however, that a variety

“The horse, what does he get for his prodigious services to us, more than blows, neglect, and starvation?”
—ASPCA Founder Henry Bergh
of obstacles in New York City—the crowded urban environment, air pollution, heavy traffic, sudden loud noises—preclude equines from receiving the fundamental necessities to ensure their safety and wellbeing. As a result, the ASPCA is backing Intro. 658, Councilman Tony Avella’s (D-Bayside) bill to ban carriage horses in New York City.

In the meantime, the ASPCA Humane Law Enforcement (HLE) Department works diligently to monitor the humane care of City horses. ASPCA HLE Agents inspect the horses in Central Park, monitor their living conditions, respond to complaints and concerns about individual horses, and enforce City and State laws that protect horses at work. The ASPCA is also charged with investigating allegations of horse abuse in New York City, and seizing horses when necessary due to mistreatment.

In mid-2008, the ASPCA hired an equine veterinarian, Dr. Pamela Corey, to assist in inspections and train other HLE Agents on how to identify cruelty cases. Dr. Corey, along with HLE Special Agent Henry Ruiz, recently persuaded a horse owner in the Bronx to relinquish custody of a 20-year-old pony named Little Bit that he could no longer care for. The pony, unable to give pony rides anymore, needed medical attention for chronic Founder, a painful and sometimes fatal disease of the hoof. After treatment at the ASPCA, Little Bit—now named Pippin—was transported to her

Next time you decide to take a carriage ride in New York City, you should know...

- Carriage horses are permitted to work nine hours a day, seven days a week.

- There are no pastures for grazing, no opportunities to roll in the dirt, lie in the sun, run or socialize with an equine companion.

- The horses work in temperatures as high as 90 degrees and as low as 18 degrees, with no regard for wind chill or humidity.

- Many horses end up at slaughterhouses at the end of their working lives.
At the federal level, the ASPCA backs new legislation and makes targeted grants aimed at protecting horses. It supports the Prevention of Cruelty Act (H.R. 6598), to be proposed in the new Congress, that would prohibit the possession, shipment, transport, purchase, sale, delivery or receipt via interstate commerce of any horse intended for slaughter. It is also working to enforce the ban on "soring" of the feet of Tennessee Walking Horses.

In addition, the ASPCA strives to protect 7,000 pregnant mares on ranches where their urine (PMU) is collected in an inhumane way. PMU provides the estrogen-rich raw material for the production of several women’s hormone-replacement-therapy drugs. The mares’ offspring are often sent to auction, where they are bought for slaughter. ASPCA grants fund the rescue of some of these mares and foals.

There is a debate underway about the fate of the wild mustang and free-roaming burro population in the U.S.—a population that is controlled by the government’s Bureau of Land Management (BLM) through gathering and management procedures that some believe to be ineffective and inhumane. The ASPCA is working with horse advocacy groups, protection organizations and federal legislators to address the BLM issues and protect the wild herds.

The drugging of horses at racetracks is also on the ASPCA agenda. At issue is the use of several drugs, including the diuretic Lasix that, while harmful to horses, is regularly administered to mask injuries and enhance performance.

**A History of Equine Protection**

- **In 1867**, the ASPCA® introduced the first horse ambulance—even before ambulances for humans were in use. Ten water fountains for horses were installed in New York City at a time when it was common for horses to collapse and die from dehydration and heat exhaustion in the summer.

- **In 1875**, the ASPCA developed the horse rescue sling. Its first hospital was a dispensary for horses. It pioneered the use of anesthesia in horses and other animals in 1918, and conducted the first operation on a horse with a broken kneecap.

- **In 1933**, an ASPCA board member founded the ASPCA Maclay Finals of the National Horse Show to “emphasize to young riders the importance of kindness and gentleness to their mounts.” In 1952, it helped develop rules adopted by what was then the American Horse Shows Association.

- The ASPCA Equine Fund, originally called the Lucky Fund, was created in 1996 to help foals from the Premarin® industry. Lucky was a PMU foal who found a forever home at Green Chimneys, a residential rehabilitation program for orphaned animals and at-risk children north of New York City. The ASPCA Equine Fund has since helped hundreds of horses in various ways, from bringing food and water to wild horses in drought conditions, to helping reputable horse rescue organizations handle emergencies or increase their capacity, to placing horses in good homes.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Henry Bergh introduced the first horse ambulance in 1867. In fact, the ASPCA still has a horse ambulance ready to assist in New York City.
performance. After hearings in June 2008, several members of Congress signaled their interest in amending the Interstate Horse Racing Act in the upcoming Congressional session, and the ASPCA expects to support this effort.

Teaching Young Riders Respect and Compassion
The ASPCA is in its 75th year of sponsoring a program, conceived of in 1933 by ASPCA Board Member Alfred B. Maclay, that teaches young riders to treat their equine partners with kindness and compassion both under saddle and in the stable. Maclay introduced the ASPCA Maclay Championship Trophy, which is today the most coveted award for junior riders younger than 18. Jessica Springsteen, daughter of musician Bruce Springsteen, won the ASPCA Maclay Finals at the Syracuse Invitational Sporthorse Tournament in Syracuse, N.Y., in November.

Making Grants to Promote Equine Welfare
The ASPCA supports equine rescues, sanctuaries and anti-cruelty organizations across the country, helping to fuel the activities of those groups through the ASPCA Equine Fund, where donations are used to help horses, mules and donkeys, and to promote equine welfare. In 2008, the ASPCA awarded $500,000 in aid and grants to equine rescues and sanctuaries for capital improvements; to public education and emergency relief efforts; and to humane societies that handle large-scale equine cruelty seizures. Recipients of the money, quadruple the amount the ASPCA Equine Fund awarded just three years ago, spanned 38 states. Jacque L. Schultz, ASPCA Senior Director of Community Outreach, says those grants came at a crucial time: “Never before have equine rescues faced such challenges. A perfect storm of rising hay prices, hay shortages, high fuel costs, floods, fires and historic droughts have made for very tough going for the nation’s safety nets of our beloved horses.” The largest grant was composed of several installments of a three-year, $300,000 sponsorship of Return to Freedom, the American Wild Horse Sanctuary in Lompoc, Calif., to expand educational and outreach programs supporting its conservation efforts.

The ASPCA will continue to identify and fund additional efforts for horses in order to realize its goal of improving the welfare of this nation’s equines. The ASPCA needs your help to continue its work. Please log onto www.aspca.org/equine today to learn more about the ASPCA’s lifesaving programs.
Mission: Orange Updates

**Austin**
The ASPCA® designed and taught a customer-service-oriented training program for 27 staff and volunteers from Town Lake Animal Center, The Austin Humane Society, EmanciPET and Austin Pets Alive! Animal Trustees of Austin Spay/Neuter Clinic put land for a new clinic under contract. The ASPCA also taught Teacher Workshops to the Austin Independent School System (AISD) teachers and presented an After School Workshop.

**Charleston**
The ASPCA sponsored and helped coordinate Operation Stop Overpopulation, a Charleston Animal Society (CAS)-initiated outreach spay/neuter clinic in one of the poorest and most rural areas of Charleston County; 32 dog and cat surgeries were performed within five hours at a local clinic. The ASPCA also sponsored Paws in the Park, CAS’s largest outreach event ever, with 400 attendees, and Howl-O-Ween, a Pet Helpers’ event to raise awareness about animals for adoption.

**Gulfport/Biloxi**
The new Humane Society of South Mississippi (HSSM) Wag ‘N’ Train community outreach vehicle was unveiled during the highly anticipated pet parade at the Oktoberfest in Jones Park. Sponsored by the ASPCA, the HSSM Wag ‘N’ Train will enable small groups of volunteers to visit various neighborhoods throughout Gulfport-Biloxi and talk to residents about the importance of spay/neuter, hand out pet care supplies and make grants to fund medical services for pets. Eighteen microchips were implanted in animals and twenty spay/neuter appointments were made.

**Philadelphia**
The ASPCA gave The Spayed Club a $25,000 grant for their low-cost spay/neuter clinic based on the Humane Alliance’s high-volume, high-quality and low-cost spay/neuter model. The clinic is slated to open in February 2009. ASPCA staff attended and exhibited at the Second Annual Philadelphia Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) Mutt Strutt. The ASPCA was also a sponsor of this event, which raised more than $80,000 for PAWS’ lifesaving activities. Meanwhile, the ASPCA awarded the Pennsylvania SPCA a $35,000 grant for its new feral cat spay/neuter clinic called The Cube.

**Spokane**
The ASPCA participated with target community partners at the Spokane County Regional Fair, where the partners had a collaborative booth. At the booth, 85 animals were adopted, $2,200 in donations were received and thousands of visitors were given educational materials and adoption information. In addition, the ASPCA worked with Pet Savers on a shelter health plan.

**Tampa**
By the end of August 2008, the Humane Society of Tampa Bay’s (HSTB) adoption numbers surpassed their adoptions for the entire prior year. Hillsborough County Animal Services (HCAS) transferred cats to reputable rescue groups at no charge, and provided testing, spay/neuter and vaccinations prior to transfer. The ASPCA Tampa team worked with New York headquarters for design of the wrap that will go onto the HCAS transport vehicle purchased from 9Lives®. The new mobile adoption van was on display at the Adoption Expo in November 2008; more than 5,000 people attended and 386 animals were adopted. Meanwhile, the HSTB sterilized 101 feral cats on National Feral Cat Day at a reduced fee of $5 per cat, which included immunization and ear notch.
O
n a warm day last June, a Bronx woman drove her car to the front door of the ASPCA® headquarters, opened her car trunk and delivered a grisly package—a sealed plastic container full of 10 dead or dying kittens. The team at the ASPCA then found more of what no one ever wants to see—10 adult cats packed into closed bins and cages in the trunk. The felines were immediately taken to the ASPCA Bergh Memorial Animal Hospital where 10 kittens were declared dead on arrival. The necropsies showed the cause of death to be suffocation and heatstroke. No wonder: The temperature inside the trunk was sweltering, and the 10 surviving cats were suffering from heat-related injuries. ASPCA Humane Law Enforcement (HLE) was called and HLE Special Agent John Delatorre arrested the owner. The charges? Twenty counts of misdemeanor animal cruelty.

Dr. Robert Reisman, ASPCA Medical Coordinator of Animal Cruelty Cases, says, “As a forensic veterinarian, I’m asked to determine the cause of an animal’s compromised health. In this case, that involved the cause of death of 10 kittens and the compromised health of 10 more cats—medical evidence that I provide to law enforcement. It’s law enforcement’s responsibility to investigate and determine the circumstances that resulted in this situation. Law enforcement then presents all of the evidence to the District Attorney’s office and a decision is made as to whether there will be a prosecution for the crime of animal cruelty.” He adds, “Regardless of the results of the criminal investigation, this was a terrible tragedy for this group of cats.”

The surviving cats were treated at the ASPCA Bergh Memorial Animal Hospital until they were well enough to be transferred to the ASPCA Adoption Center.

The timing was just right for Warren Ashworth, his wife and two sons. “We had adopted two wonderful cats from the ASPCA almost 20 years ago,” says Ashworth, “and both of them had recently died. So all four of us decided to go back to the shelter to find a new cat.” They saw several they liked, including one named Karma, but they selected a sweet white cat instead. “After two days at home we realized that the cat was deaf,” says Ashworth. “That would be a difficult condition to manage in our rather large household, so we returned the cat to the ASPCA and inquired about Karma.” Karma, a seven-month-old Domestic Shorthair, had been sent out that very day on the ASPCA Mobile Adoption Van. “Our hearts were in our throats,” Ashworth says. “We were convinced that she would be adopted by someone else.” When the van returned the Ashworths were delighted to learn that, as fate would have it, Karma was still on it. The deal was done.

How is Karma faring today? “Just fine,” according to Ashworth, who has renamed the cat “Pazzo”—Italian for clown—a fitting name considering her funny antics around the house. “There are no outward signs of the trauma Pazzo suffered in June. She’s adapted very quickly to our home life here, and she’s quite outgoing.” What’s more, four weeks ago, Ashworth and his family adopted a second cat from the ASPCA—a male ginger-colored Domestic Shorthair named George—to keep Pazzo company. “Life is very good for these cats,” Ashworth laughs. “We have a townhouse, and they enjoy a wonderful existence.” What wonderful outcomes for both ginger George and dear Pazzo.
n extremely loving and compassionate soul, Shannon Rose Angerome’s ultimate goal in life was to become a Special Agent in the ASPCA® Humane Law Enforcement (HLE) Department. Due to a terrible auto accident that left her mother, Ellen, handicapped, Shannon was called upon at the tender age of 14 to help support and care for her mother and 10-year-old brother, Paul. She shouldered the responsibility without a second thought. She not only supported the family financially, she also ran the household, and supervised Paul and his schooling. While Shannon was still in high school, she worked two jobs; as she grew older, she worked as many as 18 hours a day to see to her family’s needs. Her grueling schedule did not allow her to attend classes to complete the degree she was pursuing in criminal justice/law enforcement.

Although Shannon had limited time for herself, this did not stop her from coming to the aid of anyone in need—from family, to friends, to strangers. She lived by the belief that “We are our brothers’ keepers.” She brought many people and animals into her home. The people she helped became like family, but eventually left; the multitude of animals she saved became like family, but remained—permanently. And there were many of those.

Shannon loved all creatures, especially dogs, cats and horses. She admired ASPCA HLE Agents, who she said gave of themselves day after day to right the wrongs done to those without a voice. Shannon spent her free moments watching Animal Precinct, with the dream that one day she, too, would be a member of ASPCA Humane Law Enforcement.

After 10 years of caring only for others, Shannon’s life was cut short at the age of 24. While on duty as a guard in the back of an armored truck, Shannon was killed in a senseless accident on I-95 in Connecticut. The State Trooper who remained with Shannon throughout her final moments, later consoled her grieving mother and brother and offered his assistance in any way, at any time. “Just call and ask for me, Badge 811,” he said. “That’s her birthday,” replied her Mom.

In the profound belief that Shannon’s spirit lives on, her family has donated to the ASPCA HLE unit in her honor a Ford Expedition SUV, a rescue vehicle that travels the streets of New York and responds to the cries of the precious animals that Shannon loved so much. Emblazoned on the back of the SUV are three numbers: 811, in Shannon’s memory.

Ellen and Paul Angerome would like to remind us that there are many animals in need. For more information on how you can help, please contact Jaime-Faye Bean, Director of Major Gifts at the ASPCA, at 212-876-7700, ext. 4506, or at jaimeb@aspca.org.

“To provide a way to help animals in need—this is the greatest thing that we could have ever done for her.”

—Ellen and Paul Angerome (Shannon’s mother and brother)
In January 2009, the ASPCA® made the first $200,000 installment on its $1 million, five-year capital grant to the Humane Alliance of Western North Carolina—a grant that has been integral to the Humane Alliance’s construction of an advanced new spay/neuter clinic and training center in Asheville. The gift follows on the heels of a $300,000 annual grant over the last two years from the ASPCA in support of the Humane Alliance’s National Spay/Neuter Response Team (NSNRT), which is charged with helping humane organizations open more than 45 Humane Alliance model clinics in strategic markets across the U.S. These organizations are, in turn, partnering with hundreds of local animal shelters and rescue groups in their regions to sterilize companion animals on a widespread basis and provide a non-lethal solution to pet overpopulation. Both grants reflect the steadfast commitments of the Humane Alliance and the ASPCA to end needless euthanasia.

The Humane Alliance of Western North Carolina is a nonprofit, high-volume, high-quality, affordable spay/neuter clinic. Since its inception 13 years ago, the clinic has sterilized more than 190,000 companion animals and reduced the euthanasia rate in the Asheville community by as much as 72 percent.

The Humane Alliance spay/neuter model—widely considered to be one of the most practical, successful and sustainable approaches to reducing pet overpopulation—is predicated on an organization’s ability to spay and neuter a specific number of animals every day to cover its operating costs. This means that the organization must have access to animal populations up to 90 miles from its core operating base. The Humane Alliance model requires a regular transport program for animals that need to be sterilized. The transport vehicles go to designated pick-up and drop-off points in a particular region on a regular schedule, collecting animals and returning them after surgery. This transport capability extends an organization’s reach, increases its scale, regulates workflow, drives efficiencies and helps it to manage its cost structure.

Kate Pullen, ASPCA Senior Director for Community Outreach, says, “The Humane Alliance model is highly practical and realistic in a business sense. Moreover, it’s sustainable. It allows the organization to meet its fundamental goal of sterilization while still fueling its overhead requirements by significantly increasing the volume of animals coming through its clinic doors each day.” Pullen describes a highly efficient “choreography” that enables a surgical team to minimize the “downtime” of its veterinarian. “The vet concludes one surgery in about six minutes, turns, and begins to work on a new patient who is already prepped and ready to go,” she says. “The swift surgical process eliminates wasteful down-time.” This improvement in efficiencies has resulted in a rise in Humane Alliance clinic surgeries from 15 surgeries a day 13 years ago to more than 120 a day in 2008.

The Humane Alliance model is replicated in other markets through an extensive education program made possible through the NSNRT initiative, which sends groups of trained vets and veterinary technicians out to help nonprofit organizations open spay/neuter clinics and adopt the model. The Humane Alliance’s facilitators have assisted 45 organizations in implementing its high-volume, high-quality spay/neuter model in their own areas, and it has an additional 38 applications in hand. More than 300,000 companion animals have been surgically sterilized at these clinics in just three years. For more information about the Humane Alliance, please go to www.humanealliance.org.
ASPCA® Beefs Up Anti-Cruelty Efforts with Key Hires

The ASPCA® appointed two women to top posts in its Anti-Cruelty Initiatives Group: Laura Maloney, who serves as Senior Vice President, and Stacy Wolf, who serves as Vice President and Chief Legal Counsel for the group’s Humane Law Enforcement (HLE) Department. Ms. Maloney manages the efforts of the ASPCA Anti-Cruelty Group, including Humane Law Enforcement, Veterinary Forensics, Government Relations/Legislative Initiatives, Field Services and the New York City Anti-Cruelty Center. Ms. Wolf, a long-time veteran of the ASPCA Government Affairs team, now oversees the ASPCA Humane Law Enforcement Department’s operations, which focus on criminal investigation of animal cruelty and animal fighting cases in New York City. She also provides legal guidance and training to the ASPCA HLE agents and investigators and works with district attorneys’ offices and other agencies to help ensure appropriate outcomes in criminal cases.

PBS Series “Nature” Films Meet Your Match® Adopters

In the summer of 2008, PBS documentary film crews descended on Boulder, Colo., to film an episode about the profound relationships people have with their pets. The footage, filmed at the Humane Society of Boulder Valley, recorded potential adopters as they went through the process of pet adoption using the ASPCA program, Meet Your Match®, to find the perfect pet. The program uses research-based behavior assessments that determine the “Canine-ality” and “Puppy-ality” of adoptable dogs and puppies, as well as the “Feline-ality” of adoptable cats, and matches them with their perfect pet parents. The filmmakers also extensively interviewed Dr. Emily Weiss, ASPCA Senior Director of Shelter Research and Development. The episode is slated to air on PBS on February 15, 2009, so be sure to mark your calendars!

Dandelion in Bloom

To celebrate Adopt-a-Shelter-Dog month in October, the ASPCA® asked pet parents to submit photos of their pooches decked out in their finest apparel for the annual photo contest. The task of selecting the best dressed went to guest judge Frances R. Sheridan, photographer and author of a book on New York City's public dog runs, who says, “It was great to see how many people include their canine family members in their festivities!” One entrant, Dandelion, a four-year-old Golden Retriever/Chow mix, was adopted from the ASPCA 20 months ago. Dandelion was rescued by ASPCA Humane Law Enforcement Agents, who found her with an embedded collar. Her new pet parent, Nancy Condon, says, “Dandelion loves to ride in the car, go for walks and wrestle with her toys. Her warm eyes mirror a happy today and a hopeful tomorrow.” The judge said, “We couldn’t ask for a happier ending to this story.” Congratulations, Dandelion, and may you continue to bloom! Please visit www.aspca.org/asdm to view all of the winning photographs.

To see all of the winning photos, please visit www.aspca.org/asdm
Federal Highlights

Protecting the Nation’s Wild Mustangs

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is the federal agency charged with the care, protection, maintenance and management of the nation’s wild herds of mustangs. Since the 1980s, the agency has thinned the herds by rounding up wild horses and adopting out as many as possible to the public. However, in recent years, the BLM has allowed the wild horse population to boom, while removing millions of acres once reserved for grazing. In 2001, the BLM held 9,807 horses in captivity—in the summer of 2008, the number had risen to more than 30,000. With adoptions down and hay prices at all-time highs, the BLM has been feeling the pinch of paying to board and feed all these animals—and its proposed solution to the problem in June 2008 was to euthanize thousands of healthy horses.

Animal welfare advocates, including the ASPCA®, made it clear to the BLM that they strongly opposed this action. The BLM agreed it would not “dispose” of the animals until the Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a report analyzing the BLM’s wild horse program—the first such analysis in 18 years. The ASPCA hoped the report would condemn euthanization and promote strategic birth control or herd relocation. The GAO report, however, indicated that the BLM has the right to euthanize horses in its care and/or sell them for slaughter—without first getting approval from Congress.

At a November meeting of the BLM wild horse advisory committee, a GAO representative presented the report, clearing the way for the euthanasia of 30,000 horses currently in captivity. Henri Bisson, the BLM’s Deputy Director, noted that there were animal advocates who had stepped forward to prevent the killing of these horses by taking some or all of them. The following day, a philanthropist announced plans to create a foundation to support a massive new refuge for sterilized wild horses and burros. The generosity of this individual means that the 30,000 horses in holding areas are not in immediate danger.

To prevent a recurrence of this situation, the ASPCA encourages the BLM to change its policies by promoting birth control and allowing more space for herds to roam without competition from livestock. Meanwhile, the ASPCA hopes that in 2009, Congress will enact legislation to protect the horses still on the range. ASPCA Action readers can help wild mustangs by writing to your U.S. Senators and Representatives, urging that efforts be made to reform the BLM to ensure that these majestic animals will be fully protected today and in the future.

State Highlights

Efforts Pay Off

Pennsylvania

Thanks to your efforts, Pennsylvania passed a sweeping overhaul of the laws that regulate commercial breeders, or puppy mills, this year. In October 2008, the State Assembly overwhelmingly passed House Bill (H.B.) 2525. Although the ASPCA® is not pleased with some of the amendments that were added to the final bill, H.B. 2525 still requires commercial breeders to double the cage space required for dogs. It also prohibits wire flooring and the stacking of cages, mandates exercise for all dogs, requires that all dogs receive veterinary care every six months, and requires that animals be humanely euthanized by licensed veterinarians. This legislation will have an enormously positive impact on the lives of tens of thousands of dogs in Pennsylvania’s puppy mills. These new standards will be a benchmark for other states. Thank you, Pennsylvania!

Illinois

The Joliet Police Department asked Ledy VanKavage, ASPCA Senior Director of Legislation and Legal Training, to give a refresher course to all of its police officers on the Illinois Animal Cruelty Laws. VanKavage trained 273 officers in the humane laws, and the training sessions already have resulted in one arrest.
Top Ten Ways You Can Help Protect Horses

1. **Be Their Voice**—The best way to help horses is to “be their voice” in our nation’s courts. Your vote is your greatest weapon against injustice. Make sure you are registered to vote, and actively support legislation that protects and preserves populations and living standards of all equines.

2. **Lead by Example**—If you care about horses, make your actions consistent with your words. Don’t support or attend cruel activities, including events that employ cruel training practices, such as soring or use of excessive drugs to achieve results; unnatural animal acts, such as high-diving horses; and rodeo events that don’t promote respect for animals.

3. **Be an Informed Consumer**—Some products are made from horses, and some, like Premarin®, are created through their suffering. Your spending dollar is a weapon — use it wisely!

4. **Share Your Knowledge**—Many people are not aware of what happens to racehorses after their racing days are over, or where Premarin® comes from. You can help expand awareness by engaging friends and family in open discussion.

5. **Support the ASPCA Equine Fund**—The ASPCA® Equine Fund awards grants to organizations that make life better for horses. Horse protection and rescue groups can apply for one of these grants, and the ASPCA awards many different kinds of grants annually. In 2008, the ASPCA distributed $500,000 through the ASPCA Equine Fund.

6. **Volunteer**—There’s no gift more valuable than time. Find a local group with a mission you believe in and volunteer. Talk to the group about how you can apply your special talents to its cause. Everyone has something special to offer.

7. **Report Cruelty**—If you witness an act of cruelty, don’t keep it to yourself. Any animal cruelty can be an indicator of cruelty to other species—including humans. If you’re not sure whom to contact, please read the ASPCA website for more information.

8. **Protect the American Wild Horse**—The ASPCA recognizes that America’s wild horses and burros occupy a special place in history and deserve to be protected. Please support federal and local legislation by writing emails, letters or postcards to your representatives.

9. **Keep Your Companion Horse Safe and Healthy**—If you own a horse, you already know the importance of maintaining his or her health through regular veterinary care. But horses are also social animals, and their emotional wellbeing is a factor in their overall health. Behaviorists recommend getting your horse a buddy. A horse, burro or donkey makes a “best friend,” but goats work well, too.

10. **Plan Ahead For Your Horse’s Care**—Changes in your health, your horse’s health or your financial situation are just a few of the reasons why you might need to find a new home for your horse one day. It’s a good idea to research your options ahead of time. You should think about providing for your horse with a pet trust, and let your loved ones and family know what has been done to ensure a happy, healthy future for your horse.
$10,000
✦ Auburn, New York
FINGER LAKES SPCA, INC.

$2,500
✦ Viola, Idaho
SPAY NEUTER CLINIC

$1,500 and $10,000
✦ Charleston, South Carolina
PET HELPERS AND CHARLESTON HUMANE SOCIETY
Auburn, New York
A $10,000 grant was made to the Finger Lakes SPCA, Inc., which seized 85 horses from a breeding/boarding farm in nearby Trumansburg. The horses were so emaciated that one died on the way to the shelter and four others had to be humanely euthanized upon their arrival to end their severe pain and suffering. The funds were used for hay and other necessary support.

Viola, Idaho
A $2,500 grant was made to the Spay Neuter Clinic in Viola, Idaho, which serves two counties in Washington and two counties in Idaho with high-volume, high-quality and low-cost spay/neuter services for dogs and cats. The Spay Neuter Clinic received a Community Initiatives Grant to purchase an autoclave, which will allow veterinary personnel to rotate surgical packs and increase their surgeries from 30 to 50 a day. This increase translates into thousands more sterilized pets across the four counties every year.

Charleston, South Carolina
A $1,500 grant was made to Pet Helpers for Tomcat Blitz, a spay/neuter campaign targeted to cats, which resulted in the spay/neuter of a record 184 cats in one day. In addition, a $10,000 grant was made to the Charleston Humane Society for flyers delivered in utility bills promoting spay/neuter and targeting low-income households.

Tampa, Florida
A $23,000 grant was made to purchase a 9Lives® adoption van for use by Hillsborough County Animal Services.

Houston, Texas
A grant of $2,300 was made to Harris County Veterinary Public Health to provide training for its new cruelty investigator by ASPCA® Humane Law Enforcement.
Let’s face it—times are tough. In a difficult financial environment, it’s awfully tempting for pet parents to cut corners when it comes to their own needs and those of their beloved pets. Here are some quick tips from ASPCA® Executive Vice President and Science Advisor Dr. Stephen Zawistowski on how to survive the trials and tribulations of today—and of those challenging times still ahead.

• Shop smart. Clip coupons and buy in bulk.
• Make a list when you go to the store and buy the items on the list, avoiding impulse purchases.
• If you need help, check with food pantries or local humane groups.
• If you are doing okay, check with neighbors, especially seniors.

The expression that an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure is true. Don’t skip annual veterinary exams and vaccinations. These will help you to keep your pet healthy, detect problems early and avoid more costly treatments later. Ask your veterinarian to show you how to trim your pet’s nails and clean his or her ears, thereby saving on grooming costs.

• Regular brushing and bathing at home can help to reduce grooming costs.
• If you have not done so already, invest time in training your pet. A group class would be great, but if you can’t afford that, check out ASPCA training tips online. A well-trained pet will be easier to control and less likely to do costly damage around your home. Training will also make your pet a welcome guest when you travel, so you can save on boarding costs.

• Connect with your friends on sharing pet care items. If your puppy has grown and you need a larger crate, maybe you can trade with someone else.

• Organize an exchange list with folks at the dog walk or in the neighborhood. Recycle pet hand-me-downs.

• Instead of buying new pet toys on every trip to the store, rotate the toys you do have, and take the time to play with your pet.

• Stay with a pet food formulated under guidelines of the American Association of Feed Control Officials.

• Most people feed their pets too much food, as evidenced by the number of obese pets. Feed your pet based on the instructions on the label.
Remembering a Generous Spirit

At the venerable age of 95, Marjorie (Midge) Hornbeck still liked to take in strays. “She had a real passion for animals,” says her great-nephew’s wife, Sandra Brooks. “She came from a family of 10, but she had no children of her own. Her pets were like her kids,” Brooks laughs. When Charlie, Midge’s aged dog, died, she wasn’t too keen on getting a new one. “It just hurt her too much,” says Brooks. “It’s tough to lose someone you love, and she truly loved Charlie.” The pain of Charlie’s death was softened a bit by the appearance one fine day of a hungry cat, Paws, who “showed up at the dinner table one night and never left,” says Brooks. “After all, her pets always got fed first.”

Midge Hornbeck grew up poor, and she went to work in a shoe factory when she was still a child. Midge often told stories of being hidden in a closet when officials came in looking for underage workers. She once said, “I had to work, there was no choice. We were very poor.” Her specialty? She said she was best at “putting in the tongues.” She loved shoes her whole life—but only “good shoes.” When she died, she had about 40 pairs of shoes—most of them in excellent condition.

Midge and her husband Walter were both hard workers and because they had lived through the Depression, they were very conservative financially. They settled loans as soon as they could, and they paid cash for most items. Midge always told her family, “Don’t pay anyone all that money in interest if you don’t need to.” But even on a limited income, they always opened their doors to take care of family members in need; they were always there to help and give whatever they had. No one was ever turned away.

Many winters, Midge would take blankets and towels to the local animal shelter. She said she couldn’t stand the thought of those “poor animals lying on the cold concrete.” Midge’s care and compassion extended to all animals in need. When she passed away in December 2007, Midge Hornbeck left a $46,000 gift in her will to the ASPCA—a clear expression of her generous spirit and her love for all creatures without a voice.

For more information on how to include the ASPCA in your estate plans, please contact Marsha Pierson, CFP®, at 212-876-7700 ext. 4505 or via email at marshap@aspca.org.
**I have a nine-year-old mare who makes the funniest face sometimes, usually when she is placed in her stall. She curls up both lips like you see in funny pictures of horses. Do you know why she is doing this? She also did it when she was given her worming paste.** Linda

Linda, this behavior is called “flehmening” or the “flehmen” response. It is a behavior that horses—as well as other animals, including cats—often display when they smell something new. If your mare’s stall is cleaned, or if another horse spends time in her stall, she is probably smelling the new odors in the stall.

Emily Weiss, Ph.D.
Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist
ASPCA Senior Director of Shelter Research and Development

**My nine-year-old cat, Kitty Girl, has been grooming herself incessantly, sometimes to the skin. What’s going on?** James

This over-grooming can be due to allergic skin disease, but it can also be a nervous habit. A veterinary dermatologist can treat allergic skin disease with a hypoallergenic diet, including a pure protein diet containing a protein the cat has never eaten before, such as rabbit, and a single carbohydrate source. You can find a veterinary dermatologist in your area at [www.acvd.org](http://www.acvd.org). The dermatologist can prescribe a hypoallergenic diet and antihistamines.

Dr. Louise Murray
Director of Medicine
ASPCA Bergh Memorial Animal Hospital

**My eight-month-old puppy tends to vomit in the morning—usually once or twice after drinking water. He is a fast drinker and I try to keep the water lukewarm. It’s a clear, mucus substance that he vomits and hardly ever any food. Should I be concerned?** Michelle

Is he vomiting or coughing or retching? Is he bright, alert and playful afterward? Is there any diarrhea or loss of appetite? Has he been dewormed? As you can see, there are lots of questions to be answered when assessing the problem, and the best person to sort them out is your veterinarian. Vomiting can be indicative of a variety of problems that range from just excitement to a more serious disease. This doesn’t sound very serious to me, but you should have it checked, since it occurs fairly regularly.

Dr. Lila Miller
Vice President
ASPCA National Veterinary Outreach
April is Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month.

Each April, the ASPCA not only celebrates its many victories on behalf of animals, but also works to heighten awareness of animal welfare and its mission of providing effective means for the prevention of cruelty to animals through education and outreach.

There are so many ways animal lovers and concerned citizens across the country can ‘Go Orange for Animals’ during the month of April. By helping the ASPCA mark Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month, you’ll become a voice for animals.

Learn more about Going Orange. Visit www.ASPCAApril.org to find events and contests in your area or start one of your own!
The ASPCA® honored eight extraordinary animals and people at the sold-out ASPCA Humane Awards Luncheon on October 30, 2008, at New York City's Rainbow Room. The luncheon, sponsored by The Hartville Group, recognized animals who have demonstrated extraordinary efforts on behalf of humans, and individuals who have improved animal welfare during the past year. Following a nationwide call for nominations, a committee reviewed hundreds of entries and selected winners in eight categories.

ASPCA Dog of the Year
Cole Massie, 10, has cerebral palsy, and he relies heavily on Ilia, a five-year-old black Lab/Golden Retriever mix, to get around. Ilia is one of thousands of service dogs that support people with special needs. Cole underwent surgery in July 2008 so he would be able to walk without assistance. Ilia supported Cole through the surgery, medical treatments, physical therapy and recovery. These days, Cole is able to use his feet, and Ilia still walks faithfully beside him.

ASPCA Cat of the Year
Libby, a ten-year-old tabby, served as “guide cat” to Terry and Deb Burns’ yellow Lab/Shar Pei mix, Cashew, who was blind and deaf. Libby helped Cashew accomplish daily tasks, steered the dog away from obstacles and guided her to her food. The two were inseparable; Libby even slept with Cashew at night. Cashew passed away several years ago and to this day, Libby misses her canine companion. Their deep-rooted friendship showed that different species can understand and help each other overcome hurdles.

ASPCA Firefighter of the Year
Last summer, Adam Deem, a California firefighter, was working the Moon Fire area in Northern California when he noticed a 15-pound bear cub crying for its mother. The cub suffered from serious burns to his paws, and his fur was singed. With the mother nowhere to be found, Deem wrapped the injured bear in his jacket and took him to the Fire Incident Command Center. From there the cub, named Lil’ Smokey, was treated for dehydration and sent to Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care, where he is recuperating from the frightening ordeal. He’ll be released back to the wild this winter.
**ASPCA People & Events**

**ASPCA “Tommy Monahan” Kid of the Year**

Mimi Ausland, 12, wanted to do more than volunteer at her animal shelter. Mimi launched Freckibble.com, whose mission is to provide food to the Humane Society of Central Oregon. Since April 2008, Mimi has donated more than 47 million pieces of kibble, which can feed approximately 1,900 dogs and 2,300 cats every day for a month. Mimi’s program now supplies eight shelters nationwide. Her award was dedicated to Tommy Monahan, a nine-year-old Staten Island boy who perished last year trying to save his dog from a house fire.

**ASPCA Law Enforcement Officer of the Year**

Diane Balkin is Chief Deputy District Attorney for the City and County of Denver. For nearly 30 years, Ms. Balkin has been an advocate for animals, prosecuting those who neglect or abuse them. Over the past year, Ms. Balkin successfully prosecuted a South Dakota dog breeder for cruelty to animals and saved 19 of his badly neglected puppies. She also prosecuted a Denver man who killed a Chihuahua with a shovel and then threw the dog in a dumpster. Both defendants were found guilty, and in the Chihuahua case, the defendant was sentenced to six years in prison.

Ms. Balkin has been instrumental in changing Colorado laws to facilitate the prosecution of animal abusers, and her determination to raise awareness about animal cruelty has had a significant impact nationwide.

**ASPCA Henry Bergh Award**

Dr. Phil Bushby, a board-certified veterinary surgeon, began his career as an intern and surgical resident at the ASPCA Bergh Memorial Animal Hospital in New York City. For the last three decades, he has been on the faculty at Mississippi State University (MSU) College of Veterinary Medicine, where he serves as Service Chief with a focus on spay/neuter programs. He spearheaded the MSU Disaster Response projects during Hurricane Katrina, and travels four days each week, taking students to Mississippi shelters to provide them with spay/neuter and shelter medicine experience, and educate them about pet overpopulation.
People and Events

Humane Awards Luncheon, continued

ASPCA Presidential Service Award
Stache, a four-year-old black Lab and his handler, Jim McCans, have been involved in nearly two dozen searches, but none as challenging as when they helped to search for missing American service personnel in Iraq in 2008. Stache and Jim made nine separate recoveries, but their mission ended when an IED (Improvised Explosive Device) exploded in their path. The blast left Stache with temporary hearing loss, but he has since recovered and returned to the U.S. Stache recently visited two soldiers who were severely injured from the same blast at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

ASPCA Lifetime Achievement Award
Mamdouha S. Bobst is a humanitarian, philanthropist and animal advocate who has dedicated her life to helping others. Mrs. Bobst founded the Mamdouha Bobst Hospital at the Animal Medical Center in New York City. The hospital treats more than 30,000 animals annually and offers routine care, emergency services and treatment for pets suffering from unusual or complex diseases. Mrs. Bobst has supported the ASPCA for several years, and with her late husband Elmer Holmes Bobst, helped finance the renovation of the ASPCA Adoption Center in Manhattan. Mrs. Bobst’s contributions have saved countless animals in need.

“The ASPCA Humane Awards Luncheon honors those who have gone above and beyond for animal welfare and animal heroes who have dedicated their lives to help others,” says ASPCA President & CEO Ed Sayres. “It’s a wonderful event that celebrates the important role companion animals play in our lives.”

Stache and his handler, Jim McCans, survived an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) while searching for missing American service personnel in Iraq.

President & CEO Ed Sayres congratulates the honorees at the 2008 ASPCA Humane Awards Luncheon.
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Celebrity Corner
Tim and Nina Zagat

What was the name of your first pet?
Nina: White Bunny and Black Bunny.
Tim: Taffy (a dog) and Blacky (a cat), both appropriately named.

What’s your fondest pet memory?
Nina: As a child, walking my rabbits in a baby carriage.
Tim: Playing with them and scratching their heads.

Why are groups like the ASPCA important?
Nina: They focus attention on the proper care of animals.
Tim: They help to fight cruelty against animals. I think cruelty of any kind should be stopped.

Do you share your life with pets?
Nina and Tim: Not at the moment, because we travel too much. But we love having animals around us when we’re in the country.

What is the most rewarding part of having a pet?
Nina: Their unconditional love.
Tim: Their wonderful companionship.

Gimme Shelter Rocks the Highline
On October 6, 2008, the Gimme Shelter: Rock & Rescue NYC benefit concert rocked the Highline Ballroom in New York City in support of 10 local rescue groups and the City’s homeless animals. The ASPCA and Rational Animal, a volunteer collective of animal-loving artists and other professionals, co-hosted the concert for the third year. The event was co-hosted by the Mayor’s Alliance for NYC’s Animals, Inc., which joins the ASPCA in its efforts to increase adoptions from City shelters and end euthanasia by the year 2015.

Get Ready to Go Orange for Animals
The ASPCA will commemorate Animal Cruelty Prevention Month in April to honor the anniversary of the ASPCA’s founding in 1866. From its beginning as a grassroots adoption event in New York City, the ASPCA’s Go Orange celebration has blossomed into a nationwide celebration of the human-animal bond and the organization’s victories on behalf of animals. Iconic buildings, landmarks, businesses, schools and pet-passionate people throughout the U.S. have joined the ASPCA in “Going Orange” by promoting such practices as pet adoption, spay/neuter, supporting local animal shelters and rescue groups, and preventing animal cruelty. The ASPCA will hold three events in 2009 across the country—on April 7 in New York City’s Union Square Park; on April 18 at Zilker Park in Austin, Tex.; and on April 25 in Venice Beach, Calif.—which will feature live music, refreshments, ASPCA experts and a host of pet-related activities.

“We’re thrilled that many of our more than one million supporters across the country will embrace the ASPCA’s ‘Go Orange for Animals’ message this April,” says ASPCA President & CEO Ed Sayres. “By rallying their communities to participate, they are not only helping the ASPCA, but their local animal shelters and rescue groups, as well.” To stay abreast of the upcoming events in the ASPCA’s commemoration of Prevention of Animal Cruelty Month, or for more information on how you can join the festivities, please visit www.aspcaapril.org.

ASPCA PEOPLE & EVENTS

Not Just a Shaggy Dog Tail
On October 16, 2008, more than 550 Young Friends of the ASPCA® boogied down at an amazing evening of cocktails, dancing and a silent auction at the Frank Gehry-designed IAC building at 555 West 18th Street in New York City. The evening, which was hosted by Katie Lee Joel, featured 1970s-style disco dancing. More than $100,000 in proceeds will be used to fund efforts to eradicate animal cruelty.

Katie Lee Joel
Lake Bell, President & CEO Ed Sayers and Kristin Johnston
Ramona Singer
Debbie Harry
Meredith Vieira from “The Today Show” with ASPCA volunteers

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Founded in 1866, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) was the first humane organization established in the Western Hemisphere and today has one million supporters. The ASPCA’s mission is to provide effective means for the prevention of cruelty to animals throughout the U.S. The ASPCA provides national leadership in humane education, government affairs and public policy, shelter support, and animal poison control. The NYC headquarters houses a full-service animal hospital, animal behavior center, and adoption facility. The Humane Law Enforcement Department enforces New York’s animal cruelty laws and is featured on the reality TV series Animal Precinct on Animal Planet. Visit www.aspca.org for more information.

A Forever Home for One Lucky Horse

Eddie Mrozik and Nancy Van Wie, Co-Founders, Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue, Westport, N.Y.

We found Remington waiting patiently for a new home with a family who would love that he nickers when he sees you, and follows you around like a dog. He had a special look in his eye that said, “Pick me, pick me.” What he didn’t know was that the people bidding on him were “kill buyers.” Remington was hoping for a warm blanket, a comfortable bed and apple treats. Instead, what was waiting for him was an overcrowded, slippery stock trailer, with freezing rain to sting his eyes and chill him to the bone. Remington’s miserable journey would be nice compared with the destination—a slaughterhouse, where he would be hung upside down by his back feet while still alive, to have his throat slit to drain the blood from his body before being butchered. Fortunately for Remington, we had the ability to outbid the meat buyers.

On December 12, we delivered Remington to the warm barn, comfortable bed and caring home he was dreaming about at the auction. It was a secret mission—Remington was a surprise Christmas present for 12-year-old Corinne from her parents. When she saw Remington, there were tears and hugs all around. On Remington’s stall hung a Christmas stocking with his name, a bow, and a sign that said “Merry Christmas, Corinne.” Remington knew he was finally home.

Donating the Gift of Life

Chuck and Mary Danielian, Naples, Fla.

Thor, a Doberman Pinscher, was about 3 1/2 when we adopted him from the Lee County, Fla. Animal Control. His family had lost their home in Hurricane Charlie; they were living in a shelter and had to give him up. Because of the storm, the animal shelters were overcrowded, and they had put time limits on how long they could keep an animal. Our vet called to say that a client had seen a beautiful male Doberman at the shelter who was just two days from being euthanized. We took one look at Thor—and the rest is history.

We saved Thor, and we wanted him to help save others. We took him to the local Emergency Pet Hospital to see if he would qualify as a blood donor. Thor was a perfect candidate, and he donated blood until about two years ago, when he was diagnosed with a fatal heart condition. In spite of the efforts of the best canine cardiologist in Southwest Florida and a cocktail of eight different heart medications, Thor succumbed on August 4, 2008.

In losing Thor, we lost a truly beloved family member. Several months before Thor passed away, we adopted Kiki from Doberman Rescue. Last night, the Emergency Pet Hospital called to say they had a three-year-old female Border Collie who needed a transfusion, and would we be able to bring Kiki down? We’re gratified that Kiki was able to donate her first unit of blood to save the life of someone else’s pet—and in the process, carry on Thor’s proud legacy.

Have a rescue or anniversary tale for the ASPCA? Send us YOUR STORIES.
email us: ASPCAAction@aspca.org, or write: ASPCA Action, 424 East 92nd Street, New York, NY 10128.
Please include your name, address, and a photo (high-resolution digital or print) we can keep. Stories will be edited to fit.